



PATENT
Docket No. 1232-4457

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9-26-01
[Signature]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Masahiko Sakayori et al.
Serial No. : 09/122,293 Group Art Unit :2163
Filed : July 24, 1998 Examiner: M. Irshadullah
For : PARTS ORDERING SYSTEM, PARTS MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING ORDERING
AND RECEIPT OF ORDERS

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the instant application, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims 1, 9, 11-13, 16, 21-24 and 29 with the following:

1. (Twice Amended) A parts ordering system having a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

expansion means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to an order that has been received from the first domain; and

communication means for communicating, to the third domain corresponding to